Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota's electric cooperatives have, for years, supported each other, as well as cooperatives in our region in disastrous times; and,

Whereas, The November 27, 2005, ice storm was the most devastating natural disaster to strike South Dakota's electric cooperatives in their 60-plus-year history with more than 12,000 power poles destroyed, 9,000 miles of line impacted, 21,800 rural electric members without power and damages surpassing more than $20 million; and,

Whereas, Sub zero air stiffened linemen's hands, their faces froze, their bodies ached from pulling mile after mile of line from under ice and snow and yet their dedication and drive kept them going day after day until the lights came on for all the cooperative members; and,

Whereas, South Dakota electric cooperatives have long supported mutual aid agreements with cooperatives nationwide. When cooperatives in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama were impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, South Dakota electric cooperatives valiantly answered the call to assist in rebuilding the devastated areas; and,

Whereas, With the support of their cooperatives and their families, 24 linemen volunteered to make the long journey to assist in bringing power to the people of Louisiana; and,

Whereas, The commitment of all linemen is a great asset to South Dakota:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 13, 2006, as

ELECTRIC LINEMEN DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge all South Dakotans to recognize their unending dedication and commitment to the rural electrification program as they enhance the lives of all by promoting the common good.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State